

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/075,668

Examiner

Anu Ramana

Applicant(s)

SHLUZAS, ALAN E.

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 10/25/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-23 and 47-49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____


EDUARDO C. ROBERT
PRIMA... MINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew Douglas on November 15, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims (upon entry of the After-Final Amendment dated October 25, 2005):

In claim 1, line 10: replace "a" with - - an - - and delete "horizontal"

In claim 1, line 11: insert - - comprising an axially extending surface at least partially defining the second passage and an upper surface extending transverse to the axially extending surface; - -

In claim 1, line 13: after "said (second occurrence)" insert - - upper surface of said - -

In claim 1, line 15: delete "engaging both the horizontal indentation in the second passage", and insert - - contacting the upper surface of the indentation - - after "member"

In claim 13, line 1: replace "1" with - - 1 - - to correct a minor typographical error.

In claim 17, line 11: delete "horizontal" and after "structure" insert - - comprising a downwardly facing surface located adjacent an axially extending surface of the second passage; - -

In claim 17, line 13: delete "horizontal" and after "said (second occurrence)" insert - - downwardly facing surface of said - -

In claim 17, lines 15-16: delete "engaging both the horizontal retention structure in said second passage" and after "member" in line 15, insert - - contacting the downwardly facing surface of the retention structure - -

Art Unit: 3733

In claim 47, line 10: replace "a" with - - an - -

In claim 47, line 11: delete "horizontal" and after "indentation" insert - - comprising an axially extending surface at least partially defining the second passage and an upper surface extending transverse to the axially extending surface; - -

In claim 47, line 14: delete "horizontal" and after "said" insert - - upper surface of said - -

In claim 47, line 15: delete "engaging both the horizontal indentation", and after "member" insert - - contacting the upper surface of the indentation - -

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. None of the prior art either alone or in combination, teaches, discloses or suggests, Applicant's invention of an apparatus including: a housing having a first passage configured to receive a longitudinal member and a second passage with an axis transverse to the first passage; a fastener extending through an opening in the housing and being moveable relative to the housing; the second passage of the housing having an indentation, the indentation including an axially extending surface at least partially defining the second passage and an upper surface extending transverse to the axially extending surface; a spacer received in the second passage of the housing, the spacer having a radial surface below the upper surface of the indentation; and a member contacting the upper surface of the indentation and the radial surface of the spacer that applies an axial force to the spacer to prevent relative movement between the fastener and the housing and holding the fastener in any one of a plurality of angular positions relative to the housing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anu Ramana whose telephone number is (571) 272-4718. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 3733

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached at (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AR *Amadea Lamas*
November 15, 2005


EDUARDO C. ROBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER